

(Washington, D.C.) -- Congressman Tim Ryan announced today that the Youngstown City School District will be awarded \$437,416 to implement character education programs from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2006-2007 school year. Funds will be used to design character education programs to help students develop behaviors and attitudes that emphasize caring, civic virtue and citizenship, justice and fairness, and respect and responsibility.

"I believe that character education must be an important component in getting our students ready to compete in a 21st century economy and help them become leaders in their communities," said Congressman Ryan.
"I'm very proud that Youngstown City Schools took the initiative of securing this grant, and I'm eager to see these federal dollars put to work on behalf of the students in our community."

The grant, expected to last for four years, will also be used to improve student attendance, academic performance and parental and student involvement. It will support students with mental and physical disabilities, provide teacher professional development and promote community involvement.

"Upon graduation, today's students are going to enter a complex and rapidly changing world. This grant will lay the foundation for long-term student achievement and help our Valley achieve educational excellence."

